



## **Senate and House Pass Brownfields Bill**

Late on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Senate unanimously passed new federal brownfields legislation. Since it is identical to the bill passed by the House on Thursday, it will be signed by President Bush in the very near future.

### *H.R. 2869 - Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act*

Republicans and Democrats in Congress and the White House have agreed to a final version of new federal brownfields legislation. H.R. 2869 is ready to be voted on by the Senate as soon as it is scheduled. Key provisions include:

**MORE funding FOR SITE ASSESSMENT AND CLEANUP** - The bill more than doubles funding for assessment and cleanup of brownfield sites to \$250 million a year.

- \* \$150 million to localities, states, and tribes to support site assessment and cleanup
- \* \$50 million to clean up sites contaminated with petroleum
- \* \$50 million to establish and enhance state and tribal cleanup programs

### **INCREASED FUNDING FLEXIBILITY**

- \* Authorizes EPA to provide direct grants for brownfields cleanup for the first time
- \* Provides funding for the cleanup of corner gas stations and other sites impacted by petroleum
- \* Eases the burdensome requirements of EPA's revolving loan funds
- \* Allows funding to be used for environmental insurance premiums

**LIABILITY RELIEF FOR INNOCENT PARTIES** - The bill provides liability protection to innocent landowners, prospective purchasers, and contiguous property owners.

### **INCREASED CERTAINTY AND FINALITY ON CLEANUPS**

- \* Bars federal Superfund enforcement action for sites in state cleanup programs;
- \* Provides federal role where: requested by state; interstate contamination; imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or the environment; or new information shows cleanup is no longer protective.

**SUPERFUND LIABILITY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESS** - The bill protects small businesses, non-profits, and households that contributed small amounts of waste from Superfund liability.

To view the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.